



State of Washington  
**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

**DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)**

**Name of Proposal:** DNS 23-002: NORTHERN PIKEMINNOW DAM ANGLING

**Description of Proposal:**

The objectives of the Northern Pikeminnow Dam Angling project to be covered under the Non-Native Game Fish policy umbrella are as follows: (1) implement a recreational-type hook and line fishery harvesting Northern Pikeminnow from within the boat restricted zones (BRZs), where angling is unavailable to the public at The Dalles and John Day dams, (2) allocate Dam Angler effort between The Dalles and John Day dams based on Dam Angler CPUE in order to maximize harvest of Northern Pikeminnow, (3) collect, compile and report data on angler harvest, CPUE, gear/techniques and incidental catch for each project, (4) scan, record and report Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag data from all Northern Pikeminnow, Smallmouth Bass, Walleye and Channel Catfish caught by the Dam Angling crew and record the presence of any external spaghetti or Floy tags, fin-clips or signs of tag-loss from these fishes for use in coordination with other predation studies, and (5) collect relevant biological data on all Northern Pikeminnow and other fishes caught by the Pikeminnow Dam Angling crew.

Mortality of juvenile salmonids *Oncorhynchus spp.* migrating through the Columbia River system is a major concern of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program, and predation is an important component of mortality (Northwest Power Planning Council 1987a). Northern Pikeminnow *Ptychocheilus oregonensis*, formerly known as northern squawfish (Nelson et al. 1998), are the primary piscine predator of juvenile salmonids in the Lower Columbia and Snake River Systems (Rieman et al. 1991). Rieman and Beamesderfer (1990) predicted that predation on juvenile salmonids could be reduced by up to 50% with a sustained exploitation rate of 10-20% on Northern Pikeminnow > 275 mm FL (11 inches total length). The Northern Pikeminnow Management Program (NPMP) was created in 1990, with the goal of implementing fisheries to achieve the recommended 10-20% annual exploitation on Northern Pikeminnow >275 mm FL within the program area (Vigg and Burley 1989). The primary component of the NPMP is the Northern Pikeminnow Sport-Reward Fishery (NPSRF) implemented by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) (Burley et al. 1992). Beginning in 2010, WDFW was also contracted to conduct the Pikeminnow Dam Angling component of the NPMP (Hone et al. 2011) and 2021 marked the 12th consecutive year WDFW has implemented this component. The Pikeminnow Dam Angling project of the NPMP utilizes a four-person crew of experienced anglers using recreational-type hook and line angling techniques to harvest Northern Pikeminnow from within the boat-restricted zones (BRZ's) below The Dalles and John Day dams on the Columbia River.

This action is proposed under the umbrella of the Non-Native Game Fish and Fisheries Policy for which a SEPA Phased Review was conducted in 2021 (DNS 21-054).

**Proponent/Applicant:** Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)  
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**Location of Proposal, including street, if any:**

- The Dalles Dam on the Columbia River, located 2 miles east of Dallesport, Klickitat County, Washington: Township 2N, Range 13E, Section 35.
- The John Day Dam on the Columbia River, located 24 miles east of Dallesport, Klickitat County, Washington: Township 3N, Range 17E, Section 28.

**Lead Agency:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law<sup>1</sup> does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.<sup>2</sup> **We will not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. The comment period will end at **5:00 pm on January 25, 2023**.

**Method of Comment:**

SEPA documents related to this proposal can be reviewed at the WDFW SEPA website at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/open-comments>.

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal. You can submit your comments through one of the following ways:

- Online at the Public Input comment portal for this proposal:  
<https://publicinput.com/PikeminnowAngling>
- Email to: [PikeminnowAngling@PublicInput.com](mailto:PikeminnowAngling@PublicInput.com)

**Responsible Official:** Lisa Wood

**Position/Title:** SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Habitat Program, Protection Division

**Address:** P.O. Box 43200, Olympia, WA 98504-3200

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/licenses/environmental/sepa/closed-final>. Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.<sup>1</sup>

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, or have difficulty with the Public Input comment portal, contact Lisa Wood at: [SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov).

**DATE OF ISSUE:** January 11, 2023

**SIGNATURE:**



Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 23-002.dns

*Individuals who need to receive this information in an alternative format or language, or who need reasonable accommodations to participate in WDFW-sponsored public meetings or other activities may contact the Title VI/ADA Compliance Coordinator by phone at 360-902-2349, TTY (711), or email ([Title6@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Title6@dfw.wa.gov)).*